

# Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan Development Timeline

<b>2002</b>	<p>A team of agency staff from different fields forms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define the responsibilities of DNR's Aquatic Resources Program under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).</li> <li>• Develop options for meeting those obligations while still meeting its obligation to the public.</li> </ul> <p>In reviewing DNR's role, the team considers a number of factors that affect new and existing uses of aquatic lands including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How uses of state-owned aquatic lands are regulated—are there gaps?</li> <li>• What is DNR's legal obligation to allow the activity?</li> <li>• What are the tools available to DNR to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)?</li> <li>• Can DNR's management effectively avoid and minimize impacts?</li> <li>• What other entities are involved in authorizing the use?</li> <li>• What are the short- and long-term impacts to ecosystems and species and their habitats for different uses?</li> <li>• What is the risk of a lawsuit for impacts to species or their habitat under the ESA?</li> </ul> <p>The team presents four options to DNR managers, along with the recommendation that the aquatic resources program develop a habitat conservation plan as the most effective, consistent and long-lasting way to achieve compliance with the ESA.</p> <p><b>DNR decides to pursue developing an Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)</b></p>
<b>2003</b>	<p>DNR is awarded <a href="#">Section 6 grant funding</a> from US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service to begin work on a habitat conservation plan for state-owned aquatic lands. The ESA Team began working in July 2003.</p> <p>Scientific scoping begins to address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What species depend on DNR-managed aquatic lands and what is the extent of their dependence on the lands?</li> <li>• What types of habitat occur on state-owned aquatic lands?</li> <li>• How and what is the potential extent for DNR-authorized activities to impact these habitats and species?</li> </ul>
<b>2004 - 2005</b>	<p>DNR hires consultants to begin the baseline environmental assessment of the condition of the DNR-managed aquatic ecosystems and habitats, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classifying uses occurring on aquatic lands.</li> <li>• Describing the direct and indirect effects associated with uses of state-owned aquatic lands.</li> <li>• Quantifying the of DNR's authorized uses statewide and the extent that these uses intersect with threatened, endangered and sensitive species; the amount of species</li> </ul>

	<p>habitat managed by DNR; and the physical extent of the impacts from the activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying measures that could be used to avoid and minimize impacts to species and their habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>2006</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Federal Services* conduct public scoping for the proposed aquatic HCP, presenting its findings in a process to engage the public and stakeholders.</li> <li>DNR convenes a panel of 11 scientists to review the process and scientific information guiding the development of the HCP.</li> </ul> <p><i>* National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Fisheries Services (NOAA Fisheries) and USFWS.</i></p>
<b>2007</b>	<p>DNR, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Puget Sound Nearshore Restoration Project (PSNERP) develop a GIS data layer quantifying overwater structures built on state-owned aquatic lands. This helps DNR calculate the number of acres covered by structures, their geographic location, and the density of development by water body.</p> <p>DNR staff begins drafting the aquatic HCP.</p>
<b>2008</b>	<p>The first draft of the HCP is completed. A second Science Review Panel reviews this draft as a follow up to questions from the 2006 review. Draft HCP is updated based on the review.</p>
<b>2009</b>	<p>DNR solicits a technical review of the HCP by planning experts from local, state and tribal government staff. Draft HCP is updated based on review.</p> <p>USFWS and NOAA Fisheries review and provide comments on the revised draft. DNR began discussions with Washington's Tribes and local governments.</p>
<b>2010</b>	<p>DNR conducts initial discussions with Federal Services on the next draft of the HCP.</p>
<b>2011</b>	<p>DNR incorporates new information and revisions based on discussions with the Federal Services to prepare a new draft for submission to the Federal Services for final review.</p> <p>DNR staff continue outreach and coordination with stakeholders Tribes, and local, state and federal governments.</p>
<b>2012 &amp; beyond</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>August 2012</b> — DNR submits draft HCP to Federal Services for review.</li> <li><b>December 2012</b> — Federal Services expected to complete review.</li> <li><b>June 2013</b> — Environmental review of draft HCP and EIS under the <a href="#">National Environmental Policy Act</a> (NEPA) begins. Public review period will be for 90 days.</li> </ul> <p>Following completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Aquatic Lands HCP, DNR anticipates signing the implementation agreement with the Federal Services and receiving Incidental Take Permits from NOAA Fisheries and USFWS that commits the agency to the Aquatic HCP for a term of 50 years.</p> <p>After the implementation agreement is signed, DNR will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update its <a href="#">aquatic leasing program</a> and begin implementing the HCP.</li> <li>Conducting landscape planning.</li> <li>Begin implementing the effectiveness monitoring and adaptive management plan.</li> <li>Monitor DNR's compliance with the plan.</li> </ul>